

John M. Grimmatt

December 29, 1949 - January 5, 2010

*Tuskegee Institute (University)
1968-72, Quarterback #1,*

Hometown: Sylacauga, Alabama

John was educated at Pine Grove Elementary School and at East Highland where he excelled in academics and athletics. After graduating with honors in 1968, he went to Tuskegee Institute (University) on a football scholarship. At Tuskegee, Johnny refined his skills and escalated his football game. He led his team to two conference championships and was twice voted MVP of the game. Johnny G. was very proud of the fact that he was the first athlete of an HBCU to be mentioned as a Heisman trophy candidate.

After leaving college, Johnny embarked upon his lifetime career of a soldier in the U.S. Army. He quickly rose through the ranks from Private to First Sergeant, receiving many decorations. First Sergeant (E-8) John Grimmatt served his country in the U.S. Army for 24 years where he received many meritorious awards for superior performance and retired with honor in 1997.

John returned home to Sylacauga in January 2009. Shortly afterward he re-dedicated his life to Christ and re-united with and became a faithful member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, his childhood church.

Funeral service for Mr. John M. Grimmatt, 60, was held on a Saturday at 11 a.m. at New Hope Baptist Church Life Center, Sylacauga. Minister David Grimmatt delivered the eulogy and the Rev. Kendall Barton officiated. John was buried in Pine Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Sylacauga Alabama. John died Jan. 5, 2010, at Coosa Valley Medical Center in Sylacauga. (source - The Daily Home on Jan. 8, 2010)

